



PRESS RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Production Up 8 Percent

HARRISBURG, PA, Jun 12, 2006- - Pennsylvania's 2006 maple syrup production is estimated at 66,000 gallons, up 8 percent from last year's production of 61,000 gallons, according to the Pennsylvania Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The value of the syrup produced in 2005 is estimated at \$1.92 million, up from the \$1.74 million in the year 2004.

The number of taps in Pennsylvania totaled 449,000 during 2006 compared with 428,000 taps the year before. Pennsylvania's yield for the year 2006 averaged 0.147 gallons per tap, up from the 0.143 gallons per tap last year.

The 2006 season lasted an average of 32 days. This compares to 28 days in 2005. Sugar content of the sap for 2006 was lower than last year. Approximately 46 gallons of sap was required to produce one gallon of syrup. This compares with 45 gallons in 2005 and 46 gallons in 2003. Overall, more dark syrup was produced than last year but most was of medium color.

Nationally, maple syrup production in 2006 totaled 1.45 million gallons, up 17 percent from 2005. The number of taps is estimated at 7.26 million, up 2 percent from the 2005 total of 7.10 million, while the yield per tap is estimated to be 0.200 gallons, up 14 percent from 2005.

The 2005 U.S. average price per gallon was \$29.90, up \$1.50 from the 2004 price of \$28.40. The U.S. value of production, at \$37.1 million for 2005, was 13 percent below 2004.

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